

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-65 (Canceled)

66. (New) A network system comprising a first computer arrangement and a second computer arrangement connected by a computer network, the second computer arrangement storing data and fingerprint software,

wherein the first computer arrangement is programmed to:

transmit a request for data to the second computer arrangement;

receive fingerprint software from the second computer arrangement;

execute the fingerprint software, wherein execution of the fingerprint software creates fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the first computer arrangement and transmits the fingerprint data to the second computer arrangement; and

receive the requested data from the second computer arrangement, and wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the first computer arrangement;

transmit the fingerprint software to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the request;

receive fingerprint data from the first computer arrangement, the fingerprint data being substantially unique to the first computer arrangement; and

transmit the requested data to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

67. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which identifies components of the first computer arrangement.

68. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the first computer arrangement, or to software present within the first computer arrangement.

69. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the fingerprint data further includes data input by a user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software when executed by the first computer arrangement.

70. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to store the fingerprint data in association with details of the data transferred from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement, for future reference in identifying the first computer arrangement.

71. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to provide a message confirming that the fingerprint data has been stored.

72. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to store, with the fingerprint data, the route by which the fingerprint data travelled across the computer network, including details of any servers through which the fingerprint data passed.

73. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement incorporates a database operable to identify a payment required in relation to the data requested by the first computer arrangement.

74. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement contains stored fingerprint data for comparison with fingerprint data received from the first computer arrangement, and the second computer arrangement is programmed to transmit the requested data to the first computer arrangement in accordance with the result of the comparison.

75. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the second computer arrangement comprises a vendor computer and a verification computer, the vendor computer storing the data and the fingerprint software, wherein the vendor computer is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the first computer arrangement;  
transmit the fingerprint software to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the request;  
receive a verification signal from the verification computer; and

transmit the requested data to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the verification signal, and wherein the verification computer is programmed to:

receive the fingerprint data from the first computer arrangement; and

transmit a verification signal to the vendor computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

76. (New) A client computer connectable to a server computer arrangement over a computer network, the client computer being programmed to:

transmit a request for data to the server computer arrangement; receive fingerprint software from the server computer arrangement in response to transmitting the request for data;

execute the fingerprint software, wherein execution of the fingerprint software creates fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client computer and transmits the fingerprint data to the server computer arrangement; and

receive the requested data from the server computer arrangement in response to transmitting the fingerprint data.

77. (New) The client computer of claim 76, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which uniquely identifies components of the client computer.

78. (New) The client computer of claim 77, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the client computer.

79. (New) The client computer of claim 77, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to software present within the client computer.

80. (New) The client computer of claim 77, wherein the fingerprint data includes data input by a user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software when executed by the client computer.

81. (New) A server computer arrangement connectable to a client computer over a computer network, the server computer arrangement storing data and fingerprint software, wherein the server computer arrangement is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the client computer;  
transmit the fingerprint software to the client computer in response to receiving the request, the fingerprint software when executed by the client computer creating fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client computer and transmitting the fingerprint data to the server computer arrangement; and  
receive fingerprint data from the client computer; and  
transmit the requested data to the client computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

82. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which uniquely identifies components of the client computer.

83. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 82, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the client computer, or to software present within the client computer.

84. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the fingerprint data includes data input by a user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software when executed by the client computer.

85. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement is programmed to provide a message confirming that the fingerprint data has been stored.

86. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement is programmed to store, with the fingerprint data, the route by which the fingerprint data travelled across the computer network, including details of any servers through which the fingerprint data passed.

87. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement incorporates a database operable to identify the payment required in relation to the data requested by the client computer.

88. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement contains stored fingerprint data for comparison with fingerprint data received from the client computer, and the server computer arrangement is programmed to transmit the requested data to the client computer in accordance with the result of the comparison.

89. (New) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement comprises a vendor computer and a verification computer, the vendor computer storing the data and the fingerprint software, wherein the vendor computer is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the client computer;  
transmit the fingerprint software to the client computer in response to receiving the request;  
receive a verification signal from the verification computer; and  
transmit the requested data to the client computer in response to receiving the verification signal,  
and wherein the verification computer is programmed to:  
receive the fingerprint data from the client computer; and  
transmit a verification signal to the vendor computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

90. (New) A method of operating a network system comprising a first computer arrangement and a second computer arrangement connected by a computer network, wherein:

the first computer arrangement requests data be transferred from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement;  
in response to the request, the second computer arrangement transmits fingerprint software from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement;  
the first computer arrangement executes the fingerprint software to create fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the first

computer arrangement and transmit the fingerprint data to the second computer arrangement,

the second computer arrangement receives the fingerprint data from the first computer arrangement; and

in response to receiving the fingerprint data, the second computer arrangement transmits the requested data from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement.

91. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which identifies components of the first computer arrangement.

92. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the first computer arrangement, or to software present within the first computer arrangement.

93. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein execution of the fingerprint software prompts a user of the first computer to provide further data to be included in the fingerprint data.

94. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein the fingerprint data is stored in association with details of the data transferred from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement, for future reference to identify the first computer arrangement.

95. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein a message is provided to confirm that the fingerprint data has been stored.

96. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein the route by which the fingerprint data travelled across the computer network is stored with the fingerprint data, including details of any servers through which the fingerprint data passed.

97. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein fingerprint data is stored by the second computer arrangement and the method further comprises comparing fingerprint data received by the second computer arrangement with the fingerprint data stored by the second computer

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arrangement, and transmitting the requested data to the first computer arrangement in accordance with the result of the comparison.

98. (New) A data storage medium comprising software, the software being executable by a server computer arrangement connected to a client computer arrangement such that the server computer arrangement is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the client computer arrangement;  
transmit fingerprint software to the client computer arrangement in response to receiving the request, the fingerprint software when executed by the client computer arrangement creating fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client computer arrangement and transmitting the fingerprint data to the server computer arrangement;

receive fingerprint data from the client computer arrangement;  
and

transmit the requested data to the client computer arrangement in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

99. (New) The data storage medium of claim 98, wherein the fingerprint software is operable to create fingerprint data which includes data uniquely identifying components of the client computer arrangement.

100. (New) The data storage medium of claim 99, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware or software present within the client computer arrangement.

101. (New) The data storage medium of claim 99, wherein the fingerprint data includes data input by a user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software when executed by the client computer arrangement.

102. (New) A network system comprising a client computer, a vendor computer and a verification computer, wherein the client computer is programmed to:

transmit a request for data to the vendor computer;  
receive fingerprint software from the vendor computer;

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execute the fingerprint software, wherein execution of the fingerprint software creates fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client computer and transmits the fingerprint data to the verification computer; and

receive the requested data from the vendor computer, wherein the vendor computer is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the client computer; transmit the fingerprint software to the client computer in response to receiving the request;

receive a verification signal from the verification computer; and transmit the requested data to the client computer in response to receiving the verification signal,

and wherein the verification computer is programmed to:

receive the fingerprint data from the client computer; and transmit a verification signal to the vendor computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.